

THE COURIER

Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
Volume 31, Number 1 (Spring 2007)

Veteran Volunteer Persis Post Dies

Persis G. Post, long-time Bethel Historical Society volunteer, died after a brief illness in Shelburne, VT, 10 January 2007 at the age of ninety-nine. She was born on 7 January 1908 in Naugatuck, Connecticut, the daughter of Harry and Esther Slate Griswold. Growing up in Waterbury, Connecticut, she later moved with her family to a farm in Wappinger Falls, New York. She received her formal education at local schools and at Cobleskill College, Cortland College, Columbia University Teachers College (B.S. in 1936) and the University of Vermont. She began her forty year teaching career in West Orange, New Jersey. In 1948, she married Archie Post, UVM track coach and physical education director. That same year, "Sis" began a twenty year stint at the Taft School in Burlington. Living in Jericho, Vermont, she was elected to the Mount Mansfield Union High School board and served as a Sunday School Superintendent. Upon retirement, Archie and "Sis" moved to Newry, Maine and later to Bethel, Maine. Here she became active in the Bethel Historical Society, the West Parish Congregational Church, Republican politics, the Oxford County Retired Teachers, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the Order of Eastern Star. Archie Post died in 1994. In 2001, "Sis" returned to Vermont to live near her step-daughter Jean Lamphear at the Shelburne Bay Senior Living Community. Here she organized a book group and helped establish a library. Always an avid reader, enthusiastic cook, gardener, UVM sports fan, she also loved fly fishing. A "born" teacher, she served as a role model for her family, students and friends.

She is survived by two step-daughters, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on 20 January 2007 at the Shelburne Bay Senior Living Community with burial in Hinesburg, Vermont later in May. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory were directed to the UVM Post Field Track Project in Burlington or to the Bethel Historical Society.

Very active in the Society for more than twenty years, she served in numerous capacities as a volunteer for student educational activities and special events, as a guide in the museum, as a trustee, and a committee member and chair. She was presented the Society's 1990 Noll Volunteer Service Award for her outstanding volunteer record of achievement. A "Remembering Time" for Sis is expected to be held at the Society's Dr. Moses Mason House later in the year.

Following her death, Society Director Stanley R. Howe paid tribute to "Sis" Post in a letter published in the *Bethel Citizen*:

"The death this week of Persis "Sis" Post in Vermont brings to mind a whole plethora of memories regarding one of the most remarkable volunteers in my thirty plus years with the Society.

I believe that I first met Sis in 1979. By the following year, she had become involved in organizing an antique show in General Alger's barn on Broad Street for the first Sudbury Canada Days, which was the brain child of then Society

president Don Bennett. My mother was also recruited to assist Sis with this exhibit. At first, Mother seemed a bit dubious about how well she and Sis would do on this project. I don't think she fully understood what she had gotten herself into as she gave me that 'what kind of person is she' look. By the end of the event, however, Mother had been won over by Sis's infectious enthusiasm, creativity, thoroughly positive personality and the allure of one whose mind never stopped working at top speed. After that experience, Sis had no bigger "fan" than my mother, who became one of her favorite Society friends. General Alger was also enamored with Sis's lively spirit and force of personality from that time on, reminding everyone whom he saw how he had literally gotten down on his hands and knees to scrub his barn floor so that all the antiques Sis and my mother arranged would be viewed in the best possible setting. Sis never forgot the lengths that the General had gone to make sure her efforts on behalf of that exhibit would have every opportunity for success. How many times I heard her laugh whenever she recalled that special time.

Sis became an "institution" at the monthly meetings of the Society when as chair of the Special Projects Committee, she invariably had interesting refreshments and took great pains to provide some kind of historical background and commentary on what was being served that particular evening. For some, Sis's discussion of refreshments was the highlight of the evening, and many looked forward to just what she would be serving.

As a guide in the museum and in all her activities relating to student visits to the historical society, her years as a master teacher were clearly evident. She 'connected' with adult visitors as easily as she did with the students. 'Lighting a lamp' and not merely 'filling a bucket' was the hallmark of her educational philosophy. To see faces light up with her



Ben Conant, Persis Post and Randy Bennett at the Father Rôle monument in Norridgewock

presentations was standard fare. Only when one tried to do similar things did he or she realize what a remarkable communicator she was.

One of her great contributions to my life was the fact that she became such a role model of how to age seemingly effortlessly and trauma free. She stayed positive throughout her life and, to her, the proverbial cup was always half full. Her mind was always searching for new information. She was thrilled with every learning experience, be it a visit to a museum, a stimulating lecture or a provocative book. She related well to all ages. An activist for change throughout her life, she quickly saw what needed doing and put her formidable talents to work on many fronts. In short, she perfectly embodied what Adlai Stevenson said about Eleanor Roosevelt: 'She would rather light a lamp than curse the darkness.'

As driving (particularly at night) increasingly became a challenge for her, one of the things that Sis loved most was our trips to various lectures, exhibit openings, and historical tours around the State. With Randy Bennett driving her car and providing a continuous commentary on the countryside, and historian Ben Conant and me in the back seat, we entertained Sis with experiences that she fondly recalled to the end of the days. I particularly remember how excited she was to see the Father Sebastien R  le monument at Norridgewock. She became very interested in R  le's role in Maine history as a casualty of French-English conflict in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Sis also enjoyed countless trips with Becky Kendall to political events and meetings as well as concerts and lectures. She shared Becky's love of politics and savored their many trips around Maine through the years.

Another memory that Sis and I both recalled fondly was the time we celebrated her 90th birthday during the famous 1998 ice storm that devastated much of Maine. Many people who attended had spent days without power. Fortunately, electricity at my house had been off only briefly through that difficult time and many who came to the party enjoyed getting warm after days of surviving their unheated homes. They were reluctant to return to their cold houses so they stayed way beyond the end of festivities. Neither Sis nor I minded in the least since she was having such a grand time. Characteristically, when the time came to leave, she insisted that all the food left over be taken to the shelter for those without electricity.

As circumstances dictated that Sis should be nearer her family, she left Bethel for Shelburne, Vermont in 2001. It was not an easy decision for her, but true to form, she adjusted to the change and made the most of it. Once again her creativity and dynamic personality were at work, and those around her benefitted from her various efforts to enrich their lives. She wrote me nearly every week, and I tried to send her items that crossed my desk and keep her posted on all the Society news and what was happening in Bethel. In December, I sent her William Andrews's mystery novel, *Stealing History*, which I thought would interest her with its western Maine setting. When I did not hear from her, I surmised that something was not quite right. I finally reached her by phone and she said that she had not been feeling well and had had some tests. She did not say much more about herself, but seemed to rally as we talked and I filled her in on a number of local developments. She had indeed read the book, liked it and had passed it on to her step-daughter Jean to read. I still suspected that something was seriously wrong, but did not know the extent of her situation. When I received a call from Jean on January 10, I knew what to expect. Sis had a good day on her 99th birthday on January 7 and quietly went to sleep three days later--vital to the end, just exactly what she would have wanted!"

President's Column

The Society continues to be busy in terms of its programs, working on new exhibits and special projects. In this column, I would like to focus on two special projects that are well underway.

The Society is in the midst of participating in a Museum Assessment Program (MAP) on governance. We are among only a handful of museums in the country participating in this program. The goal of this assessment is to enhance the governance capacity of the Board of Trustees. This assessment initially calls for a self-assessment of the governance practices of the Board of Trustees. Next spring an outside surveyor, recommended by the American Association of Museums (AAM), will review how we govern ourselves and provide suggestions as well as courses of action. I am pleased to report that this program has already resulted in some changes in the Board's governance practices. This assessment is yet another step toward placing the Bethel Historical Society in a position of being accredited by the AAM, a significant recognition and a long-time goal of our board.

The second project, initiated by the Board late last year, is a Planning Study. Penny Harris has been hired as a consultant to work with us to better articulate our vision for the future and to ascertain how the Society and its vision is viewed. By the middle of July, Penny Harris will have conducted close to 50 interviews of members and friends of the Society. Her report will provide the Board and staff with an enhanced perspective on how to best proceed in accomplishing our vision of growth for the future, including a museum addition to the Robinson House.

I hope all our readers have a wonderful summer, and take advantage of the Society's various activities.

Allen Cressy

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Bethel Historical Society is committed to building on its reputation as a premier regional history center that will continue to enrich the educational and cultural life of its community for generations to come. Members and friends have generously contributed to the operations of the Society and to the acquisition of the Robinson House. In order to ensure the long-term maintenance and further development of the Center's facilities, programs, and collections, the Society is seeking new forms of support. You, readers of *The Courier*, are asked to consider making a charitable gift to the Society through a bequest in your will, the establishment of a trust, or a number of other financial arrangements and options that are available. These charitable gifts can be structured to support the Society's mission while at the same time assuring the security of your family. For more information, please contact the Society by calling (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or by writing to P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012 or by emailing: info@bethelhistorical.org

Western Maine Saints

A Bethel Family (Frost)

Nauvoo, England and Back to Nauvoo

By Jayne W. Fife with Roselyn Kirk

Dramatically escaping from the Columbus, Missouri, Jail on 4 July 1839 with his brother Orson's help, Parley immediately headed for Mary in Quincy, Illinois. Having been informed of his escape, she kept the table set for five days and nights and a candle burning in the window. She agonized that he had been recaptured, but on the fifth night she heard a sound at the door and there he stood. She flew into his arms—both weeping tears of joy and relief. At this point, they were devoted to each other, their love made bright by the agony of suffering and separation.

How then did they move through a slippery slope in their relationship so that a little more than six years later—after the birth of three more children—they became alienated from one another, with Mary refusing to accompany Parley on his westward trek?

In early July 1839, Parley wrote that he spent his first days of liberty in “the enjoyment of the society of family and friends....After a few days spent in this way, we removed to Nauvoo, a new town about fifty miles above Quincy....It had been appointed as a gathering place for the scattered Saints and many families were on the ground, living in the open air, or under the shade of trees, tents, wagons, etc., while others occupied a few old buildings, which had been purchased or rented.” Additional members had settled in abandoned log buildings on the opposite side of the Mississippi, in a place called Montrose, that had formerly served as a barracks for soldiers.”

Parley and Apostle Heber C. Kimball cut logs and each built a small cabin on five acres of wilderness purchased from a local landowner. On 21 July, Mary wrote to her parents in Bethel, Maine: “Our healths are good, the children grow and are very play ful. I hope you will not give your selfs [sic] so much trouble about us as you have done. I presume you have more trouble about us than we have for ourselves. These light afflictions which are but for a moment will work out for us a far more exceeding [sic] and Eternal wait of glory. I have our oxen and Cows, the Lord has blest us.” She again suggests they come west and concludes with “it is towards eve and I must attend to my little babes.”

By August 29, there was a big change in plans. Parley, along with brother Orson and Hiram Clarke, left Nauvoo to join other apostles on a mission to England. Mary, her two children, Mary Ann (age six) and Nathan (age one), as well as two and a half-year old Parley, Jr. (retrieved from a woman who had cared for him since the death of his mother), accompanied the three missionaries in a two-horse drawn carriage. They were headed for New York City, where other missionaries were gathering to sail for England. After visiting Parley's parents in Detroit, they sold the horses and carriage and steamed down Lake Erie to Buffalo, then the Erie Canal to Albany and finally down the Hudson River to New York City, a journey of 1400 miles.

Mary Ann later remembered that they first traveled over



Parley P. Pratt home and store at Nauvoo, Illinois, as it appeared in 1909. Courtesy of Jayne Fife.

“flower decked prairies. Best of all we were free and happy—not afraid of mobs and violence—in a land of friendliness, meeting sympathy at every hand.

On 9 March 1840, Parley sailed for Liverpool, England with Apostles Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Orson Pratt, as well as two others. Parley wrote in his journal, “We were accompanied to the water by my family, and by scores of the congregation....We bade them farewell amid many tears, and taking a little boat were soon on board ship—which lay at anchor a short distance from the shore.”

Mary and children traveled on to Bethel to visit her parents, returning later of New York to conduct Parley's book selling business—including the collection of money already owed.

On 6 April 1840, Parley penned a letter to Mary giving her advice about preparing to join him by June or July. He wrote, “Here is a boundless harvest for the next 15 or 20 years...if the Lord will I expect to spend five or ten years at least.” He continued, “I wish you as soon as you get this letter, to sell every thing except bedding [sic] and wearing apparel and fill two chests and a trunk and get ready to come to England the first opportunity.” He advised her to collect what was due on books and pay the printer. “Do not let the Books go without pay in and, for they cost me much money and I owe for them; and I need the remainder after the debt is paid, to support my family.” If this plan didn't work out, he suggested she borrow money from “some good friend....Courage Mrs. Pratt, you have performed more difficult journeys than this, and if you will take hold with Courage the Lord will bless and prosper you and our Little ones and Bring you over in Safety.”

In England, Parley's major assignments were to edit and publish a monthly periodical, as well as a hymn book and the *Book of Mormon*. Brigham Young had borrowed 350 British pounds from two converts to finance the printing of 2000 Millennial Star periodicals, 3000 hymn books and 5000 Books of Mormon.

While attending a general church conference in Manchester on 6 July 1840, Parley was given a letter from Mary informing him that the children were seriously ill with scarlet fever. He wrote back to here, “Behold your Letter comes with the sad news of your Sickness; and that you are

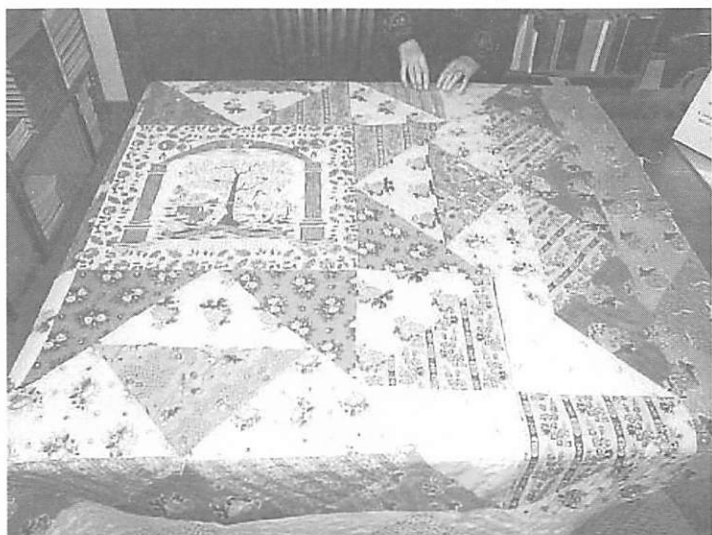
not coming. This is more than I can bear. Here I must live alone, my Chamber desolate. And you still confined at home where I Could assist and comfort you and aid you continually in the care of the little ones, if I only had them here.... Why must we live separate? Why must I forever be deprived of your Society and my dear little Children? I cannot endure it.” He ended by writing that he had no prospect of coming to America for years.

Then conditions changed. His colleagues, knowing that he was slated to remain in England for several years as editor and publisher, decided he should go back to the United States and return with his family. Brigham Young gave Parley 60 British pounds to cover the cost. By the time he arrived in New York, Mary and the children had recovered. And before they set sail for England, they journeyed to Maine to visit Mary’s family.

An unusual experience occurred before the arrival of the Pratt family in Maine. Mary’s sister, Lucretia Bean, told her family one day that Parley and his family would arrive at their home the next evening. In response, the next day, she changed the bedding in the best room. Her family laughed at her. They reminded her that Parley was in England and Mary in New York, but just as they were preparing for bed, the Pratts knocked on their door. As a gift, they presented a quilt that Parley had brought from England. It is now at the Bethel Historical Society.

When they left, they took Mary’s sister Olive, age 24, with them to help care for the children. She had recently been baptized. They arrived in Manchester, England, in October. Their home at 47 Oxford Street became a meeting and lodging place for those coming and going to preach the Gospel. Parley resumed his editorship and publishing duties, and also presided over the Church in Great Britain. Mary and Olive helped in the office and assumed some missionary responsibilities.

In a letter to Church leaders in Nauvoo just after the first British edition of the *Book of Mormon* was published in 1841,



Handmade Adam and Eve Quilt given by Parley P. Pratt and Mary Ann (Frost) Pratt to her sister, Lucretia (Frost) Bean, and husband Samuel R. Bean in 1840. Presented to Bethel Historical Society by Polly Ann Johnston in 2002.

Parley wrote, “The work is increasing in every step. It is now prospering in Ireland and Wales, as well as in Scotland and England.” Although he missed the Saints in Nauvoo, he wrote, “I can truly say that I was never more contented, or more happy than of late.”

On 2 April 1841, at a conference held in Manchester it was reported that there were now 8,000 to 9,000 converts, 5000 just in last year. A thousand new members had already immigrated to the United States. Passage costs were from 3 pounds, 15 shillings to 4 pounds, including provisions. Passengers were to take their own bedding and cooking utensils. All their luggage was free. On arrival in New Orleans, a passage up the Mississippi River, fifteen hundred miles by steam, cost 15 shillings, freight free.

In June 1841, Olivia Thankful Pratt was born, named after her aunt Olive and Parley’s first wife, Thankful. In nearly 1842, the Pratts moved to Liverpool to supervise the emigration process more closely. Then on 29 October 1842, they themselves left with 250 converts for Nauvoo.

It was a challenging journey with “difficulties, murmurings and rebellions.” Parley wrote, “We then humbled ourselves and called the Lord, and he sent us a fair wind and brought us into port in time to save us from starvation. Daughter Mary Ann reported that water was so scarce that she learned to “take a bath in a teacup.”

They arrived at the mouth of the Mississippi on 1 January 1843, where they transferred to a steam-powered tugboat for the 100 mile journey to New Orleans. From there, a chartered steamboat carried immigrants to St. Louis, dropping off the Pratt family at Chester, Illinois, about 80 miles south of St. Louis, where they rented the bottom portion of an old warehouse as they waited for the river to open up to Nauvoo. Parley had been threatened with arrest if he should be caught on Missouri soil.

Near the middle of March, they took a steamer to St. Louis, gathered their group of immigrants and boarded a small steamboat for the final 300 miles to Nauvoo. Unfortunately, they had to wait several more weeks before the ice on the river was sufficiently broken up to travel north. Finally starting, it took two more weeks. Mary gave birth to a daughter, Susan, on the little steamboat full of converts on 5 April. They arrived at Nauvoo at 5 p.m. on 12 April. The Prophet met their boat and invited Parley, Mary and the baby to his home. Olive and the older children went to Patty Bartlett Sessions’ home.

On 15 April, Parley wrote in an article for the local newspaper, “I had been absent about three years and half during which all the improvements had been made and that by a people almost without means. Judge my feelings then, in riding through a regular town, for some three or four miles, with streets opened, lots fenced out and buildings almost innumerable, many of them were neatly built of frame or brick. I gaze, I wondered, I admired. I could hardly refrain from tears.”

In late June, Aaron and Susan Frost, Mary’s parents, arrived from Bethel, Maine with their daughters, Sophronia and Huldah, all now members. Aaron, a skilled carpenter, began work on the Pratt’s new home, eventually laying the floors, building the stairs and fashioning the woodwork along

with an English builder and carpenter, Nicholas Silcock, who had recently arrived with the Pratts. The large, two-story, nine-room home, which included a store, was built of red brick with stone base caps and window sills which trimmed the 27 large windows [see photo, p. 3]. Four foot square stone pillars supported a stone cornice at the entrance. There was a deeper cellar in the basement. It was considered one of the finest homes in Nauvoo. It still exists on the southeast corner of Young and Wells Street, with significant revisions implemented by the Catholic Church that bought the property after the Nauvoo exodus. Mary Ann later wrote, "Before the roof was quite finished we commenced moving in and kept going from one part to the other until it was all completed." The now large family had been living in a one room cabin across the street.

Shortly after their arrival, Joseph Smith discussed the relatively new plural marriage principle with Parley which included the concept of marriage for Time and All Eternity, not just Time. Joseph's restoration of ancient Church doctrine included the renewing of the traditions of Abraham and Solomon, who, he said, were commanded by God to marry plurally. He had introduced, with varying degrees of acceptance, this principle to selected leaders during the Pratt's absence. Joseph had already chosen Elizabeth Brotherton, an English convert, to be Parley's plural wife. Before finalizing the arrangements, he had to leave Nauvoo to visit relatives, leaving Parley and Mary to struggle with this new concept. According to Pratt family history, Parley begged Joseph before he left to not insist on his entering a polygamous marriage, but the Prophet was adamant, saying it was his duty to be an example to other leaders. He was told to pray about it. In a dream, his first wife, Thankful, came to him and indicated that by having more wives, he would be adding to his stature in the next world and she would be over the other wives, thus elevating her stature as well.

Mary "raged" about plural marriage, but not the sealing of couples for Time and All Eternity. After praying she reported that "the devil had been in me until within a few days past, the Lord had shown it (plural marriage) is all right." In the meantime, Joseph Smith had been arrested by two deputies from the Missouri governor for the reinstatement of the 1838/39 charges of treason. He had previously escaped Liberty Jail with the seeming complicity of his guards "who felt him innocent...which he was...but the vengeful governor wanted him back."

On 24 July 1843, Hyrum Smith, recently given authority by Joseph to perform celestial marriages, sealed Parley to his first wife, Thankful, with Mary as a proxy. Then Mary was sealed and finally she "gave" (a term signifying a wife's acceptance), to Parley, twenty-six year old Elizabeth Brotherton as his plural wife. She had no idea of the impact of the new arrangement.

Little Nathan Pratt, age five years and four months, died 21 December 1843 of "fever on the brain." He was buried in the yard near the south fence of the Pratt home just seven months after the family returned to Nauvoo. Parley wrote a very poignant elegy to his son.

In the spring, Parley and other church leaders left to

proselyte and electioneer for Joseph's candidacy for President of the United States. Joseph's decision to run was partly due to President Van Buren's refusal to help Church members obtain compensation for the violation of their rights as American citizens and the seizure of their extensively developed land two times in Missouri. He informed church representatives, "Your cause is just, but I can do nothing for you."

On 27 June 1844, Joseph and Hyrum Smith were murdered in the Carthage Jail. They, and the citizens of Nauvoo, had been promised protection by the governor of Illinois if they surrendered willingly, which they did. The charges made against them were later proven illegal, as other charges against them over the year always had been.

The night of the June 29 funeral, the people of Nauvoo were horrified by the appearance of a mob gathering a short distance away with the intent of terrorizing them and destroying the city. Parley and many of the leaders were away. The available men had few weapons to protect the city because Governor Thomas Ford had forced the people to surrender their weapons to his army when Joseph and Hyrum surrendered in Carthage. Now, the Governor and his army were nowhere in sight. Mary and her children, plus other neighborhood women and their children, huddled together in her large cellar room. They were certain that the horrific agony they had experienced five years previously in Missouri was about to be repeated. Then, they had been driven into the freezing countryside in the middle of winter after having been robbed, beaten, women abused, crops and homes destroyed and some killed. Young Mary Ann later recorded that her Mother softly said, "If we have to be killed, let us all die together."

One woman later wrote about a drum beat that penetrated the night, "Every blow seemed to strike to my heart...the women...were weeping and praying." Near midnight, there was a sudden flash of lightening and a crash of thunder followed by a violent storm. Amazingly, the mob dispersed.

Amidst all the tumult of that time, little daughter Susan, age one year, five and one half month died of disease of the bowels on 28 August and was buried next to her brother who had died just eight months before. Mary's sister Sophronia had died in May. The murder of Joseph and Hyrum had also taken their toll on her.

On 9 September, twelve days after Susan's death, Parley took his fourth wife, second plural wife, Mary Wood. Mary Pratt did not participate in this marriage as before, so she may not have been aware of it.

For whatever reason, Mary was not present at any of Parley's marriages other than that of Elizabeth Brotherton. Could Parley have decided that Thankful Halsey Pratt held the position of "first wife" even though she was deceased and he therefore did not require Mary's approval and participation? Although the approval of the first wife was common in Nauvoo, it was not firmly established by Brigham Young until the arrival in the Salt Lake valley.

In November 1844, Parley married twice more and took his new wives, Belinda Martin, with him on a mission to New York. Mary gave birth to her last child, Moroni, six days

after he left. About a week later, she received a letter from Parley. He wrote, "I never left home with more intense feelings, nor under more trying circumstances than present, except the time I went to prison and to death leaving you sick of a fever with a babe three months old and to the mercy of savages and scarce shelter or food. I was sorry to go and your tears quite overcame me. But I tore myself away and here I am. And where I hope to go I hope you will soon be also. I shall then be happy; so cheer up. The time will soon pass with you, surrounded as you are with Mother, children, and friends. But with me it is far different. I not only have to part with one but all. Time drags slowly and solitude is sickening to me..." Tellingly, there was no mention of Belinda—only solitude.

After eight and a half months, Parley and Belinda returned. She later wrote, I "went to Mr. Bench's tavern to board while Parley went home. After a little time, it was arranged for his wife Mary (Wood) and me to commence keeping house in a room upstairs in Mr. Pratt's house."

This was a tumultuous time in Nauvoo. As early as the winter of 1844, Joseph Smith had begun plans to search for an additional gathering place in the West. In September 1845, church enemies set fires to settlements surrounding Nauvoo, causing refugees to stream into the city. Parley was active in planning for the exodus. At the General Council meeting he provided a list of necessary items for a family of five to cross the plains. In early October, a formal government document called the Quincy Convention demanded that the Saints leave Nauvoo by May 1846. Earlier, on 6 October 1845, at the first conference held in the Nauvoo Temple, those attending were given instructions for a spring departure. Several companies were also organized.

(to be continued in the next issue)

New Life Members

James W. Dearborn, Buxton
Robert Chapman Foster III and Janet Pearce Foster, East Boothbay
Alta Goodrich-Cooperman, Oxford
Earl A. Higgins, Shillington, PA
Howard E. Kaepplein, Harvard, MA
Donna McCluskey, Boston, MA
Bruce and Suzanne Pierce, Newry
Norman A. and Joan B. Putnam, Bryant Pond
Charles and Frances Richmond, Bethel

In Memoriam

Died, 10 January 2007, Persis G. Post, Shelburne, VT, Life/Honorary Member
Died, 30 January 2007, Gayland Dooen, Bethel, Senior Member
Died, 8 March 2007, Jean Mills Hutchins, Bethel, Life Member
Died, 15 March 2007, Ruth Kittredge, Norway, Sustaining Member

Diary of William S. Hastings *(continued from the last issue)*



1943—May 1, Cloudy and blowing a Gale!
Nice spring! Tinkered corn planter. I'm weak as a rag. May 2, Greenwood in p.m. May 3, I'm out around. Sorting potatoes. May 4, Clearing. Went to Grand Lodge in Portland. May 5, Sawed wood for John. Ruth is sick in bed. May 6, Clear & warm. Plowed & harrowed the garden. Ruth is better. May 7, Clear & warm. 10 hrs. on Sanborn lot with Jim Reynolds for R.F.T. Co. May 8, Clouding & rain. Tried to plow intervale. Frost isn't out yet. Put up spuds. Bethel in evening. May 9, Clear & windy. Fenced Coburn pasture. Planted garden. May 10, Cloudy. 10 hrs. on Sanborn lot & finished. \$20 paid. May 11, Clear & cool. 10 hrs. Hammond farm, Sumner. May 12, Rain. 6 hrs at Registry on Hammond deeds. Tested my instruments. May 13, Clear & warm. 10 hrs. on Hammond lot. Paid Jim \$17. May 14, Clear & cool. 6 hrs. on Intervale lots 2 & 4, Rumford for Ladd & Ray. \$6 pd. Plowed 4 hrs. in p.m. May 15, Clear & warm. Changed a truck tire. 6 hrs. on Hammond place & finished. May 16, Cloudy, cold. Plowed & harrowed in a.m. Ground wheat, hauled wood in p.m. Asa Sessions has a survey job. Rain at night. May 17, Clear & warm. Worked all day on a double row planter. May 18, Clear & warm. Started planting spuds about 2 ½ A. Star practice meeting. May 19, Cloudy. Cut seed all day. May 20, Clear & warm. Planted on seed piece. 5 + A planted. May 21, Rain. Cut spuds in a.m. Norway in p.m. May 22, Clear & warm. Finished our 6 A seed piece. Planted 3 ½ A for Farwell. May 23, Clear & warm. Masons attended Methodist Church in a body. 18. P.M. 5 hrs. L14 R 1, Bethel for Hannah Coolidge. Paid. May 24, Clear. Planted 2 A spuds. Broke planter twice. Spread manure & plowed. Blackout in eve. May 25, Clear & warm. Ruth & I attended Grand Chapter O.E.S. in Lewiston. Arranged with Seavey to fix milk cooler. May 26, Rain. O.E.S. again. Home at 7:30 p.m. May 27, Harrowed 18 A. May 28, Harrowed & plowed. John Irvine. May 29, Clear & warm. 5 hrs. for F. L. Edwards on Bethel Fair Grounds. 5 hrs. Court surveys. May 30, Cloudy. Worked all day on farm. May 31, Clear & cool. Planted spuds all day, 16 A done. Bob taken sick. June 1, Clear & warm. Spread lime & planted 2 ½ A sweet corn on



William S. Hastings. Photo courtesy of Barbara Honkala

"Horse Pasture." June 2, Clear & hot! Spread manure & plowed rest of Horse Pasture. Ditto on upland. Bob is better. O.E.S. meeting. June 3, Clear & hot. Took cooker unit to Auburn. Director's meeting at Paris. Had flat tire. Plowed & harrowed in p.m. June 4, Cloudy. 1 day in Court Survey. June 5, Clear, windy. Started plowing on Steve Abbott place. June 6, Clear & warm. Wired Newton's milk house. Set out tomato plants. June 7, Rain. Worked on court plans. Got car welded in eve. June 8, Clear & warm. Bethel for grain. Norway with load of hay. Filed my report on Court cases. June 9, Clear & warm. Plowed all day. Steve Abbott place. Finished our plowing. June 10, Clouding. Harrowed all day. Ours is done, 22.5 A planted, 2 ½ to go. Took East at Mason meeting. Rain at night. Emmie & David came. June 11, Cloudy. O.E.S. School of Instruction. Ruth & I took the East. It went fine. June 12, Clear & warm. Plowed 3 ½ hrs. for [Leslie] Noyes, 1 ½ for John [Howe]. Crew finished our spuds, 25+ A spuds, 5 A corn, 2 ½ oats, string beans & garden. June 13, Showery. Plowed 2 hrs. for John. Fixed our water system. June 14, Clear & warm. G. A. Graduation. I presided at Alumni Luncheon. June 15, Rain. ½ day on Cross vs. Edwards. ½ on maps. June 16, Showery. 1 day in Lot 14 & 15 R \$, Buckfield for Bill Verrill, \$10 pd. June 17, Cloudy, showers. At Registry, 5 hrs. for Bob York. Got two more survey jobs. June 18, Clear & hot. 1 day in Virginia for R.F.T. Co. June 19, Clear & warm. Planted more peas in a.m. P.M. 2 ½ hrs. for Bob York, \$7.50 paid. Job of Henry Godwin, \$3 pd. June 20, Cloudy. Housed sleds. Got out hay machinery. June 21, Clear & warm. 1 day for Les[lie] Davis in L 27 Ranges ! & 2 Bethel, Hapgood farm. June 22, Clear & hot. 1 day in Virginia, R.F.T. Co. June 23, Clear & hot. 1 day in Virginia & finished. June 24, Clear & hot. 1 day L 15 R 5, Mexico for R.F.T. Co. June 25, Clear & hot. 6 hrs. for Riverside Cemetery Annex. 2 hrs. for Town on Tyler St. June 26, Clouding. Put steel roof on home barn. Rain at night. June 27, Cloudy. Finished roof. Put up aerial, hoed, put sprayer together. June 28, Clear & hot. Dad's 80th birthday. 1 day for R.F.T.Co. Ames lot ½, Allen lots & Crescent Ave. ½. June 29, Clouding & cooler. Sprayed some. Hayed. Connected Rodney's barn lights. June 30, Clear & hot. Poled my beans, bushed peas. Set up an electric pump. Green peas from garden. July 1, Clear & hot. At Registry. 2 hrs. for Mrs. [?], Gilead. 1 hr P.H.Chadbourne, 2 hrs. Ernest Dudley. Car greased. July 2, 40 [degrees], Clear & hot. Tractor hoed spuds & got hay. July 3, Clear & hot. 8 hrs. on L8Rs 9 & 10, Bethel for P. H. Chadbourne. July 4, Clouding. Hayed all day. July 5, Rain. Cleaned cellars, fixed Rodney's lights, repaired horse stable, unloaded hay, changed tires, made map. July 6, Clear & cool. Tractor hoed about 6 acres spuds. Bethel in p.m. Squared up with Bryant [Market]. Collected [Fred] Edwards' bill. July 7, Clear & hot. Sprayed all day, 13 acres. July 8, Clear & hot. Finished R.F.T.Co. maps in a.m. 6 loads of hay for John in p.m. July 9, Clear & hot. Hoed in a.m. 9 loads of hay for Farwell in p.m. July 10, Clear & hot. Wired the peas in a.m. Hayed & hoed in p.m. Had tieup whitewashed. July 11, Clear & HOT! We climbed Waterspout [mountain west of farm]. Nice trip. July 12, Clear & Hot! Sprayed in a.m. First Bordeaux mixture of season.



D. Grover Brooks. Photo courtesy of Donald and Eleanor Brooks

String beans from garden. Hoed in p.m. July 13, Clear & HOT! Mowed for John in a.m. Got 11 loads hay in p.m. Went swimming in eve. July 14, Clouding. Mowed Eph piece. Got 3 loads for Farwells. Showers in p.m. July 15, Clear & cool. Tractor hoed 3 A spuds on Steve's [Abbott]. 6 loads hay on John's. 4 loads on our "Eph" piece. July 16, Clear & hot. Hayed in a.m. Norway for treatment. July 17, Clear & hot. 4 hrs. for Paul Thurston's Lock Mt. lot. Also followed some Bethel Water Co. lines. July 18, Clear & hot. Repaired Farwell's mower. Hoyt Gunther's buildings burned. Put on recapped tire. July 19, Clear & cool. Repaired sprayer. July 20, Clear & cool. Sprayed 10-A piece. Finished haying our "Eph" piece & "Crow" piece. July 21, Clear & hot. 1 day in Norway on Cottage Street for Jos. Wilner. Blackout in eve. July 22, Rain. Repaired sprayer and put on new shutoff & hose. July 23, Clear & hot. Rumford Falls Trust Co. ½ day showing Paul Staples the Hammond lots in Peru & Sumner. July 24, Clear & hot. Repaired sprayer, rake & hay loaders in a.m. 7 loads hay in p.m. Upton in eve. July 25, Clear & hot. Ran line for Grover in a.m. Went to Cambridge Meadows in p.m. Home in eve. July 26, Rainy. Norway to Ration Board. 4 hrs. for Timberlands, Inc. at Registry. July 27, Clear & warm. 6 hrs. in Roxbury for Paul Thurston. July 29, Rain in p.m. West Bethel flat in a.m. Norway in p.m. Shoes for the boys & myself. July 30, Rain. Ground wheat, etc in a.m. ½ day drafting plan of Hill lot, Norway. July 31, Clear & hot. 42nd birthday. 8 hrs. for Harold Nutting on Bill Lowe lot,



John H. Howe

Bethel. Billy \$2. \$11 Paid. August 1, Clear & cool. Went to Whitecap Mt. for blueberries. 4 of us got about 1 bu. Poor picking. Edward went to visit David [Tamminen, a cousin] for two weeks. August 2, Clear & HOT! 93 [degrees] in shade. 1 day in Roxbury for P.C. Thurston, 1 day for Billy. August 3, Clear & warm. Mowed weeds. Sprayed. August 4, Rain! Mowed grass back of house. Repaired horse stall. Regular flood at night. August 5, Clear & cool. Took Ruth to Greenwood. 2 hrs. for Timberlands in Registry. 1 hr. Town of Greenwood. August 6, Clear & cool. 1 day on L20-21, Div. 3, Rumford for Timberlands. Billy 1 day. August 7, Clear & warm. 7 hrs. on L5R1, Newry for P.C. Thurston. August 8, Clear & warm. Harrowed garden & raked lawn. Greenwood in p.m. & brought Ruth home. August 9, Clear & cool. ½ day on Davis-Sears line. ½ day on Thurston land on Merrill Hill, Newry. August 10, Rain. 1 day on Hezekiah Hutchins place in N. Rumford, John 1 day. Wet job! August 11, Cloudy. Rain. Masonic funeral for Wm. S. Hart of Wilson's Mills. August 12, Cloudy, 1 day on Hutchins place. John, 1 day. Paid \$8. August 13, Norway in a.m. Put new sill under back side of Bean house. August 14, Clearing. Sick in a.m. Built clothes rack. Cleaned phosphate attachment on cultivator. August 15, Clearing. 1 day on Lots 20-21, Div. 3, Rumford for Timberlands. August 16, Clear. Car greased. 8 hrs. in Newry for Paul Thurston. August 17, Clear & cool. 1 day on L70, 78, 79, Div. 2, Rumford for Timberlands. John, 1 day. August 18, Ditto. Same job. John, 1 day. August 19, Ditto. Same job. John, 1 day. August 20, Clear & warm. 1 day in East Otisfield for Miss Mary North of Camp Ohuivo. August 21, Clear & hot. Same job, 1 day & finished camp lot (60 or 70 acres possibly). August 22, Cloudy. Estimating pine for Myron Scarborough. \$8 charge. August 23, Clear & hot. Went to Buckfield & Hebron for R.F.T. Co. on Amos Foster

matter. \$10 paid. August 24, Rain. Wrote Ohuivo description & went to Rumford. August 25, Clear & hot. 1 day in Hartford for Sheriff Francis. John, 1 day. August 26, Clear & cool. 1 day in Hartford. John ditto. August 27, Clear. Got out my bills for work. Norway in p.m. August 28, Cloudy. Surveyed Norway Village for A. J. Stearns, \$7 pd. Laid out Tyler St. in Bethel, \$4 ch. New synthetic tire. 70,482 miles. August 29, Cloudy. Wired Noyes milk house, \$1. Built bulkhead door post & concrete form at Bean place. August 30, Clear & cool. 1 day for Rumford Land Co. on Roy Lots, Spruce St. John, 1 day. August 31, Clear & cool. Director's meeting at So. Paris, 2 hrs. at Registry for Fred Smith, 2 hrs. for Holman Farrar. Bob is gored by a bull & taken to C.M.G. Hospital. September 1, Clouding, rain. Bill Ward is topping out the chimney on Dad's house. I'm helping. Star meeting. September 2, Rain! At Registry. 2 hrs. for Widd [Twaddle, M.D.] R.F.T.Co. September 3, Cloudy. Pulled weeds on seed piece. Bob is coming along well. September 4, Cloudy. Delivered 1110 ft. of 3" hemlock plank to Town as Asa Howard's bridge. Pulled weeds. Rain at night. September 5, Rain. Grover, John & I went to Cedar Stump & visited Harry Brooks, Dave Barrie & Hi Hendrighs who are tenting there. September 6, Rain & clearing. Dave and I went up south side of Rapid River to Pond-in-the-River Dam & back on Carry road. Came home in p.m. September 7, Cloudy & misty. Pulled weeds in a.m. Got ready to pick corn in p.m. Heavy shower at night. September 8, Cloudy & wet. Picked corn, 260 bu. +/- (6280 lbs., \$103.62) & hauled it to West Farmington. Slid out of road on intervale. Had a blowout & no spare. Arrived at factory at 8 p.m. Home at 11 p.m. September 9, Clear & cool. Picked a small load & took what I left in Dixfield at Henry Holman's. 4960 lbs. \$79.76. September 10, Clear & cool. Sick in a.m. Set up ensilage cutter & cut in some corn fodder. September 11, Clear & warm. Cut corn & put in silo. September 12, Clear & cool. Put two retreads on truck. Built horse stalls in stable. Made maps, etc. Bob came home from hospital. September 13, 33 [degrees], Clear & warm. Picked & hauled 6340 lbs. of corn to Farmington. \$111.58. September 14, Clear & warm. Picked & hauled 6280 lbs. corn. \$108.02. September 15, Cloudy. Picked & hauled 6510 lbs. of corn. September 16, Cloudy. Cut in silage. September 17, Cloudy, shower. Cut in silage. September 18, 29 [degrees], Clear & cool. Picked & hauled 2 loads of corn. 185 miles after 11 a.m. 6770 lbs. in 3 hrs. 55 min. & 6570 lbs. 4 hrs. 10 min. round trip. September 19, 29 [degrees] Picked & hauled 6250 lbs. corn. Finished ours & John's. We had 40,320 lbs or 20 tons 340 lbs. September 20, Clear & fine. Finished cutting our in silage. Silo is full. September 21, Clear & warm. 1 day in Otisfield for Mary North. Home at 8:45 p.m. September 22, Clouding. Took Potter Davis to Sumner. ½ day for R.F.T. Co. Davis \$4 paid. Masonic School of Instruction at So. Paris in eve. September 23, Cloudy. Pulled weeds on Home Piece & finished it. September 24, Clear & cool. Repaired barrels till 2 p.m. Then went to Rumford and divided a house lot in Virginia for R.F.T.Co. \$4. September 25, Clear & cool. Started digging on seed piece, 70 bbl. Broke digger draw-bar & had Bacon weld it, \$2.50. Got two big loads 2nd crop [hay] for Noyes.

September 26, Cloudy & cold. Repaired machinery in a.m. We all went to Conroy place in p.m. September 27, Clear & warm. Dug 125 bbl. seed. September 28, Clear & warm. Dug 170 bbl. seed. Had 7 girls from Gould Academy here picking potatoes [young men serving in the World War]. September 29, Clear & cool. 115 bbl. seed & 36 bbl. on Home Piece. September 30, Clear & cool. Broke digger on our 2 A seed piece. Had it welded & dug 110 bbl. on Home Piece. October 1, Rain. Our 20th anniversary. October 2, Rain. 6 hrs. for United Feldspar Minerals Corp. on L65, Rumford, 3rd div. on Black Mt. Went to camp in eve. October 3, Cloudy. Worked around the camp. Grover's family, John & Edith came up. October 4, Cloudy. Dug 210 bbl. on Home Piece, 2 A. October 5, Showers. 83 bbl. Ruth & I chained & respotted the S ½ L 65, Div. 3, Rumford. 1 day. October 6, Clear & cool. I finished the Black Mnt. job in a.m. Dug 175 bbl. O.E.S. Inspection. Went fine. October 7, Cloudy. Dug 190 bbl. on Home Piece. October 8, Clear & cool. 180 bbl. on Home Piece. October 9, Clear & warm. 230 bbl. & finished Home Piece. Started on Steve's land, 28 bbl. October 10, Clear & cold. 1 day in West Otisfield for Harold Pratt, \$10 paid. Home at 8:30 p.m. October 11, 18 [degrees]. Clear & cool. 152 bbl. on Steve's. October 12, Clear & warm. 151 bbl. October 13, Clear & hot. I showed Alton Worthley the Mason land in Andover. Crew dug 168 bbl. October 14, Clear & hot. Dug 340 bu. on Noyes. Mason meeting. October 15, Cloudy. Dug 195 bu. on Noyes. Rain at night. October 16, Rain. A "perishin" Flood! Made a barn-window frame. Finished the Black Mnt. plan. October 17, Rain! Helped John put in a new water-tub. Started plan for Eva Carrier. October 18, Clear & cool. Tried to dig on Noyes. Too muddy. John & I went to So. Paris. ½ day in registry & at West Paris for United Feldspar. October 19, Rain! Wired 2 hrs. for Steve [Abbott] & ½ day for [Sherman] Newton. October 20, Cloudy. Rain Dug 160 bu. on John's. Put up ½ load. October 21, Cloudy, cold. Dug rest of John's spuds. 425 bu. in all. October 22, Cloudy. Dug 190 bu. on Noyes. October 23, Cloudy. Dug 2 acres of Noyes spuds before 9 a.m. Billy & I surveyed the Corn Shop lot at West Paris, 8 hrs.

Postscript

The above lines for 23 October 1943 constituted the last entry in the diary as William S. Hastings soon departed on a hunting trip to the Umbagog Lake region where he drowned, along with his cousin John Howe and friend Harry Brooks on 29 October 1943. From the *Bethel Citizen* for 4 November 1943, is found the following: "The community was much saddened and shocked Friday night [29 October 1943] upon learning of the deaths of two-well known and popular citizens while they were returning from a week's hunting trip. Two prominent Bethel men, John Howe and William Hastings of East Bethel, lost their lives Friday afternoon, October 29, on Umbagog Lake when their boat capsized in heavy waves after the outboard motor stopped [near "B" point according to an item under the "Upton" column in the *Advertiser-Democrat* for 4 November 1943], and Harry Brooks of North Weymouth, Mass. is missing. The fourth member of the party, D. Grover Brooks, merchant and president of the Bethel Savings Bank made his way ashore and walked about



Harry B. Brooks. Photo courtesy of Donald and Eleanor Brooks

four miles to True Durkee's in Upton. The bodies of Mr. Howe and Mr. Hastings were recovered Monday afternoon and the search still continues for the body of Mr. Brooks, who at first was believed to have reached the shore of Blake Island. D. Grover Brooks has been at the scene of the tragedy most of the time, where his direction has helped greatly in the progress of the search so far. The party was returning from their tenth annual hunting trip in the locality. The accident occurred near Blake Island, a short distance south of Dutton or Metalluk Island. [The group had been at Tyler Cove, which was their headquarters for the week of hunting. They used a sixteen foot square stern rowboat with an outboard motor to travel from camp and were returning when the waters became choppy in an exceptionally high wind. When the motor became disabled, the boat got caught in the trough of one of the huge waves. It was heavily loaded with four men and a week's hunting gear and rode low in the water. It capsized; there were no life jackets. John Howe was believed to have suffered a fatal heart attack, and Hastings, in trying to help his cousin, quickly tired, but was able to cling to a gas tank for about an hour before he sank below the icy water. Harry Brooks was a strong swimmer and was last seen making his way toward the island.] The survivor, D. G. Brooks, had powerful hands and was able to cling to the boat, but he was

bout two hours in reaching the shore, and then was so exhausted that he could not start at once through the woods and swamps for help. **John H. Howe** was born in East Bethel, June 7, 1891, the son of Fred and Agnes Hastings Howe. He attended Gould Academy [graduating in 1912] and has been a selectman of Bethel for sixteen years. He married Miss Edith Kimball of Bethel, June 25, 1914. Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter Agnes, wife of James K. Haines, a son, Rodney, four grandchildren, Nancy, Peter, George Haines and Stanley Howe, and an uncle, George K. Hastings, all of East Bethel. He was a member of Alder River Grange and Knights of Pythias. **William S. Hastings** was born in East Bethel, July 31, 1901, the son of George K. and Mary Fifield Hastings. He attended Gould Academy [graduating in 1918] and the University of Maine. He is a member of the Masons, Order of Eastern Star and Alder River Grange of which he was treasurer for thirteen years. Mr. Hastings has been associated with his father and brother in farming, and for several years has done much surveying in this section. He married Miss Ruth Cole of Greenwood, October 1, 1923. Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter Barbara, two sons William and Edward, his father, George Hastings, a brother, Robert D. Hastings, all of East Bethel, an aunt Mrs. Abbie Millett, and an uncle John Fifield, both of South Paris, and several cousins. Both Mr. Howe and Mr. Hastings will be greatly missed by their neighbors and their many friends. Whenever an emergency arose or a neighbor was in need both arrived to lend a helping hand. They were cousins and had lived, worked and played side by side all their lives. The [joint] funeral was held in the church at East Bethel this Thursday afternoon. Rev. T. H. Wallace of Scituate, Mass. officiating. The Masons and Knights of Pythias held their committal services. **Harry Bradbury Brooks** was born in Upton, April 7, 1883, the son of Aldana and Mary King Brooks. He received his education in the Upton school, Gould Academy and Gray's Business College. He married Miss Ethel Sanborn of Bethel, who survives. He also leaves a daughter Jane, the wife of David Barrie, two grandchildren, Joan and Peter Barrie, two brothers, Gerry Brooks and Grover Brooks of Bethel, and a sister Mrs. Agnes Twaddle of Augusta. For many years, he has been connected with the coal business in Boston and was credit manager of the Cutter Coal Company. For some time, he held a credit position with the R. H. White Co. His home was at North Weymouth, Mass. [On 5 November 1943, his body was recovered by a party which included his brother Grover and Deputy Sheriff Robert Milton in about six feet of water very close to one of the islands toward which he had been last seen swimming according to the *Advertiser-Democrat* for 12 November 1943.] William S. Hastings' wife Ruth was at Alder River Grange # 145 in East Bethel attending the East Bethel School's Halloween party when news of her husband's drowning reached her. Dr. Widd Twaddle, Hastings family physician and friend, had the sad duty of informing her of the loss of her husband. ■



Member Profile: Musa S. Brown

Musa S. Brown, the daughter of Carl and Eva Bartlett Swan was born in Greenwood, ME and attended local schools before graduation from Gould Academy as salutatorian of the class of 1945. She took a post graduate course at Gould from 1945 to 1946. In 1946, she served as bookkeeper for Dr. Sherman Greenleaf in his veterinarian and funeral business before marrying Edwin Brown in 1947. He died in 1997. She later worked in the hot lunch program at Crescent Park School. In 1960, she began her thirty-two year career as office manager/bookkeeper at the Bethel Citizen, retiring in 1992. During the late 1960s, she served on the SAD # 44 Board of Directors representing the town of Bethel. Currently she works part-time as bookkeeper for Maine Street Realty, is very active in the Methodist Church, and serves as vice president of the Riverside Cemetery Association. She has three daughters, two granddaughters and two great-granddaughters.

A life member of the Society, she has volunteered in the museum shop and been active on the mailing committee.

Her hobbies include reading, sewing, and collecting miniature china.

ANNUAL FUND

Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

Editor's Corner

This issue marks the final entries in the remarkable diary of William S. Hastings, which covered the years 1934 to 1943. Tragically his life was cut short at age 42 by drowning in Umbagog Lake. From this diary one can learn much about farm life in rural Maine in the 1930s and 1940s. He recorded many details that would otherwise have been lost, including weather, cost of particular items, and crop harvest levels. Also it is intriguing to see how little impact the depression years of the 1930s had on this prosperous Western Maine family farm operation. One can also gain insights into the domestic scene during World War II with blackouts, observation post duty, shortages, and his service on draft and war supply boards. Of interest to those who study diaries, is the personal growth of this man, who in the final years of the diary through his own self education became a well-known and accomplished local land surveyor. Anyone who reads the diary can only marvel at the range of skills he possessed from carpentry to mechanical and electrical capabilities. Moreover, he appeared to make very minute of his short life count. Devoted to his wife and family, he always took time out, often with the family, to travel and explore. He loved the outdoors, was very community oriented and as the diary so fully documents thoroughly embodied the proverbial good neighbor. All of this shines through as one reads his nine years of recordings written in his characteristic direct and plain language.

Because we believe it is important that we share some of the rich resources that have become part of the Society's collection, we will begin publishing an 1864 diary of Edgar Harvey Powers of Hanover, Maine in the next issue.

SRH

Book Note

New England in a Nutshell. Edited by the Editors of Commonwealth Editions. (Beverly, Massachusetts: Commonwealth Editions, 2002. Pp. 179. Cloth. \$17.97)

This small volume contains over 300 thought-provoking and often humorous quotations that capture the essence of New England. With comments about the region ranging from Captain John Smith to Mark Twain to Calvin Coolidge, there is something here for anyone wishing to understand the six states that comprise New England.

Here is found Daniel Webster's famous comment about Dartmouth College ("It is, Sir, as I have said, a small college. And yet, there are those who love it."), Bill Bryson's observation, "New Hampshire is one big forest," and Ralph Waldo Emerson's musing, "We say the cows laid out Boston. Well, there are worse surveyors."

Divided into nine sections dealing with the New England image, character, weather, seasons, landscape, sense of place, and cooking, the book also contains quotations on humor and Boston. Over one hundred men and women are quoted here for easy reference. The book includes a useful index as well.

SRH

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Allen Cressy, President; Susan Herlihy, Vice President; Walter Hatch, Treasurer; Sarah Tucker, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Trustees: Bruce Pierce, Arlan Jodrey, John B. Head, June Abbott, Sylvia Clanton.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Membership Application*

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- Free admission to the period house museum.
- A 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more from the Society's Museum Shop
- Special Research Library privileges, including reduced photocopying fees
- Subscription to the Society's quarterly, *The Courier*
- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
- Voting rights in the Society
- Reduced course fees
- Special invitations to Society events

Note: New memberships activated after July 1 include that calendar year, plus the following year.

____ Student (under 18 years) - \$3
 ____ Senior (over 55 years) - \$5
 ____ Sustaining (individual) - \$10
 ____ Contributing - \$20
 ____ Patron - \$30
 ____ Benefactor - \$40

____ Life over 55 years (individual) - \$100
 ____ Life over 55 years (couple) - \$150
 ____ Life 55 and under (individual) - \$200
 ____ Life 55 and under (couple) - \$250
 ____ Individual preference (any amount over \$10)
 ____ Corporate/Business - \$50

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Street

P.O. Box

Town/City

State/Province

Zip/Postal Code

Phone (____) _____ e-mail _____

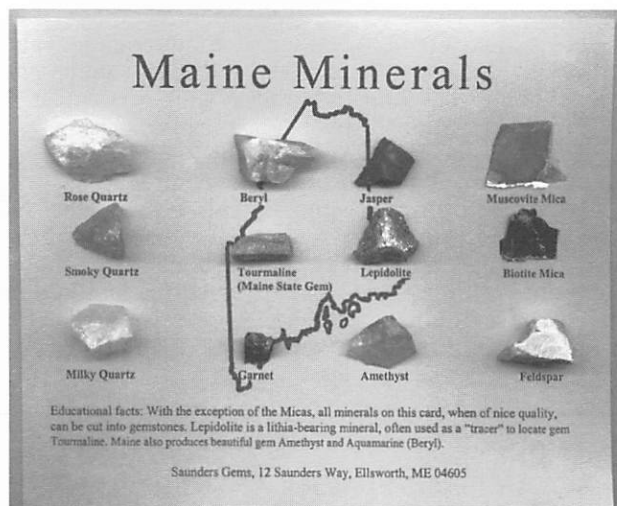
Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908 or 1-800-824-2910. FAX (207) 824-0882
E-Mail: info@bethelhistorical.org ISSN0749-9208

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, ME 04217-0012

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 8
BETHEL, MAINE
04217

FROM THE MUSEUM SHOP*



Maine Minerals Collection

Created by Saunders Gems of Ellsworth, Maine, this collection of 12 Maine mineral specimens are mounted on a special card which features the name of each, plus some interesting "educational facts." Includes display box, measuring approximately 6" x 8" x 1", with clear plastic cover. (Size of specimens will vary slightly.) \$9.95

To order: Send check or money order to the Bethel Historical Society, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012. Members may deduct 10% from prices given on orders of \$10 or more. Shipments to Maine addresses should include 5% sales tax. Shipping fees for *Media Mail/Parcel Post*: under \$10 = \$3; \$10 to \$19.99 = \$4; \$20 to \$30 = \$5; over \$30 = \$6. For *Priority* shipping, please double these amounts.

*For a list of additional items available from the Museum hop, please visit our web site at www.bethelhistorical.org

Bessie Bennett
PO Box 1102
Bethel, ME 04217

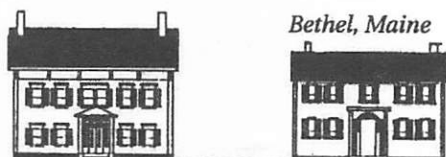
PLEASE HELP US KEEP THE COURIER COMING TO YOU BY TELLING US WHEN YOU MOVE OR CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS!

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:
www.bethelhistorical.org

CORPORATE/BUSINESS MEMBERS

The Bethel Citizen ~ Bethel Village Motel/Ruthie's ~ Brooks Bros., Inc. ~ Café DiCocoa/Market & Bakery ~ The Chapman Inn ~ Richard A. Douglass, Inc. ~ Funky Red Barn ~ Gideon Hastings House ~ Goodwin's Inc. ~ R. D. & Irma Holt Memorial Sculpture Garden ~ Jewelry by Addison Saunders ~ The Jolly Drayman at the Briar Lea Inn ~ Lennox Capital Management of Maine, LLC ~ Locke Summit Estates LLC ~ Mahoosuc Realty, Inc. ~ Main-Land Development Consultants Inc. ~ Moore Recycling Associates Inc. ~ Mt. Mann ~ Northeast Bank ~ Norway Savings Bank ~ Oxford Networks ~ Perham's of West Paris ~ Pleasant River Motel ~ Pok Sun Emporium Inc. ~ Pooh Corner Farm ~ Riverbend Associates, Inc. ~ S. S. Milton ~ Sessions & Associates ~ Smith & Town Printers LLC ~ Smith Reuter Lull Architects ~ Specialty Timberworks ~ Stony Brook Recreation ~ The Sudbury Inn LLC ~ Sunday River Inn ~ Sunday River Skiway Corp. ~ Swan Screenprinting ~ The Victoria Inn & Restaurant ~ W. J. Wheeler & Co., Inc. ~ Western Maine Supply Co. ~ D. A. Wilson & Co., LLC ~ Douglas Zinchuk Carpentry

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER